



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL



ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 271 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Marty Knollenberg
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to eliminate a requirement that a school district or public school academy (PSA) not begin its school year before Labor Day; and specify that, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a district's or PSA's schools could not be in session on any Monday or Friday in August.

The Code generally requires the board of a school district or intermediate school district (ISD) or board of directors of a PSA to ensure that the district's or PSA's school year does not begin before Labor Day (the first Monday of September). The bill would eliminate this requirement.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the bill would require the board of a school district or ISD or the board of directors of a PSA to ensure that its schools were not in session on the Friday before Labor Day. (This was required under the Code until the provision disallowing a pre-Labor Day school year start applied.) The bill also would require the board of a school district or ISD or board of directors of a PSA to ensure that the district's or PSA's schools were not in session on any Monday or Friday in August.

MCL 380.1284b

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in minimal administrative savings to the State and some local education authorities (school districts and public school academies). The cost savings at the State level would result from removing the process for the State Superintendent to grant waivers to districts that have program needs requiring the school year to start before Labor Day. The cost of the waiver process is currently unknown since it is not identified within existing Superintendent operations, but the cost likely is minimal. The minimal cost savings also would occur for schools that require a waiver under current law.

Local education authorities would experience no other impact overall as a result of the bill since it would not impose any new requirements that would result in additional savings or costs. However, the flexibility to operate schools before Labor Day (with the exception of the Friday before the holiday and Mondays and Fridays in August) could yield some savings to districts if the cost of providing school early were less than at other times of the year (such as at the end of the school year due to excessive snow days).

Date Completed: 3-29-17

Fiscal Analyst: Cory Savino